

Compelled To Bare His Cross

Matthew 27:29-32; Mark 15:20-21; Luke 23:24-26

- I. The Suddenness Of The Cross
 - A. It was an Unexpected Cross
 - B. It was an Unrequested Cross
 - C. It was an Uncontested Cross
- II. The Selection Of The Cross
 - A. It was a Sovereign Selection
 - B. It was a Strengthening Selection
- III. The Separation Of The Cross
 - A. There was a Separation From Loved Ones
 - B. There was a Separation From a Looking World
- IV. The Sharing Of The Cross
 - A. There was a Closeness To Christ
 - B. There was a Companionship With Christ
 - C. There was the Carrying of Christ
- V. The Summit Of The Cross
 - A. The Cross will take you to a Place of Sacrifice
 - B. The Cross will take you to a Place of Surrender
 - C. The Cross will take you to a Place of Salvation

Compelled To Bare His Cross (Matt 27:39-35; MR 15:20-21; Luk 23: 24-26) There is a man that is local to the Chattanooga area that has a ministry of going around all over the country carrying a large wooden cross on his back. And every where he goes he witnesses for the Lord Jesus. They do not have no problem with it more power to you. But I don't believe that is what Matt 16:24 means exactly not taking up a large wooden cross to carry it around but taking up the way of Christ. The way he went a way of difficulty and distress and daily follow after Christ. There is an example of a man doing that in our text and I want to draw out crossbearing truths to apply to us.

I. The Suddenness of the Cross - Simon was from Cyrene a place located on the western coast of Africa. He had ^{been} saved for years and traveled long for the chance ^{to Jerusalem and now} to pass over in A. Unexpected - He didn't expect to participate in the execution of a criminal, he was coming to worship God, not to carry a heavy tool of execution. But yet when crosses come, burdens of life come they don't come on schedule.

B. Unrequested - He didn't ask for this. He wasn't raising his hand saying pick me! Pick me! He had other plans, there were other sights he would have much rather seen! Not

the brutal slaying of a criminal. No body asks for

C. Uncontested - The Roman's in power at the time could call on any one at any time to do any thing in a moments notice, that person was bound to comply. Lakes account - They seized him, and he had to comply. The sudden reality of crosses is that

II. The Selection of the Cross - The may the selection of Simon took place was that the Roman soldier would tap the shoulder of a bystander.

A. A Sovereign Selection - This choosing was not by accident or coincidence. The tapping of this spear on this man's shoulder was a Sovereign Selection. As we will see later this tap on the shoulder may have had world wide gospel implications. Whatever cross you are bearing was specifically designed for you. God has a purpose & plan, the implications

B. A Strengthening Selection - The texts seem to indicate that Jesus, weakened by fast- ing, sleeplessness, brutality, lashing was unable to carry the load. These guards probably chose the first able-bodied man they could find to help bear the load. 1 Cor 10:13, God is not trying to squash you under a load of trial & Bush. God is making a way to bear it. 2 Cor 13:9 My ^{Grace} is sufficient.

III. The Separation of the Cross - We do not know if his 2 sons were with Him. Alexander & Rufus, But it was customary to bring their

A. Separation from Loved Ones - The bays

- 1) ...reality of crosses is that they can not be contested. You can't jump up and down saying no to make that cross go away. Spurgeon said Jesus "...bears a cross, not that you may escape it, but that you may endure it. Christ exempts you from sin, but not from sorrow."
- 2) ..of a by-stander with the flat of a spear. How or why was he selected? Was he the stoutest looking by stander? Did he simply look like a foreigner and was chosen for that purpose. I believe it was a...
- 3) ...which we can't even fathom. God's choice of you to carry this cross my have family-wide implications, church wide implication, it may affect the lives of thousands!
- 4) *1 Corinthians 10:13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.* *2 Corinthians 12:9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. I most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.*

I ... Jesus' cross is that they can not be countered, for
such things as love and grace saying no to make that cross go
away. Scripture says Jesus "... bears a cross, for that you
may escape it; but first you may endure it." Christ's example
now shows that you follow "the cross" but not the sorrow.

(S) ... to understand with the rest of a verse. How or why was
the sacrifice made for the electing people? Did
the simple poor life & toilful one was chosen for the
purpose? Believe it was a...
(E) ... which we can't even tell now. God's choice of you to
carry this cross is a broad family-wide implications church
wide implication if you suffer the rest of your days

(A) **Philippians 1:13** These people are performing super you
but such as a common of men; but God is infinitely wise;
will not suffer you to be overcome above that he doth,
will help you in every way to escape,

- 1) **Philippians 3:10** That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;
- 2) **Every believer is compelled to take up the cross of Christ whether it be trial of affliction, or simply the reproach of the gospel before a contradicting world. Matthew 16:24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.**

weren't asked to carry the cross. The wife wasn't asked to carry the cross. Just Simon. Therefore there was a separation between what he was doing and his family.

His loved ones. Ultimately as much as we try to bear one another's burdens and share our load of care in the end is we ourselves that bear the ^{trials} weight of B. Separation from a Mocking World - Not only separation from loved ones but a mocking world. They weren't there holding up the burden. They were simply watching His spectacle. There is an onlooking world around you that is watching you carry that load, carry that burden. Do they see the inner strength of God in your life? Or do they see the ^{to carry such a heavy} butler snarl of one hand?

IV. The Sharing of the Cross John's account in 19:17 says that Jesus bore his cross. So that means that both Jesus + Simon carried the cross, but it wasn't just Simon but the load was shared.

A. Closeness to Christ - Notice that when Simon picked up that cross with the Lord Jesus He was closer to Him than any one else!

Although the crowd jeered, mocked and screamed at Jesus' voice and mocked it wasn't difficult for Simon to hear him whisper.

B. Companionship with Christ - Simon was compelled to join in with the labor and suffering of Christ himself. To know in some small part the sufferings of Christ. This was the heart cry of Paul Phil 3:10 Every believe is called

C. The carrying of Cross - I do not know who carries the greater load of cross, Simon or Jesus. But I do know who carries the greater load of crosses in my life. ^(Matt 11: 28-30)
He carries the load. He is the stronger in the ^{ob Burden} York.

V. The Summit of the Cross - In each text we find that the next stop is Calvary the next stop is Golgotha the place of the skull. I wonder what Simon saw in Christ alone.

A. A place of Sacrifice - Simon saw a man that didn't act like the other criminals that day a man that willingly gave his life. A servant carrying the cross will bring you to a place of sacrifice. A place where Romans get really real. Living sacrifice! Our crosses teach us to sacrifice.

B. A place of Surrender - Simon saw a man as though he were a sheep before his shepherds. And instead of biting at his mouth in rebuke, but saying father forgive them "a man surrendered." Carrying a cross with Christ will lead us to surrender ourselves into the hands of God.

C. A place of Salvation - Warren Wiersbe said it best. Simon had come to Jesus to celebrate the Passover and he ended up meeting the Passover lamb. We have good reason to believe that not long after Simon was saved (made an perchicest) his scars were mentioned in Mark as though roman church

VI. Closing. Sonny Shall Simon bear thy cross alone and other saints go free. Each saint of thine shall find his own and there is one for me.

- 1) Matthew 11:28-30 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
- 2) ...as though the Roman church knew who Simon's son's were. There is a Rufus mentioned in Romans 16:13 who many scholars believe to be one of the sons of Simon. In Act 13:1 there were a group of men from the church as Antioch named who were responsible for sending Paul and Barnabas on the first missionary to the Gentiles. The name of one is Simeon that was called Niger. Simeon is another form of Simon. Niger was the regular name for a man of dark completion who came from Africa. When you carry the cross with Jesus you will appreciate your salvation all the more and my lead others to the carrying of the cross of Christ.